

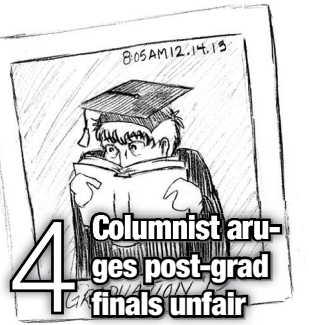


wednesday, december 11, 2013

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thecollegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



VOL. 119 NO. 73

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Tomorrow:
High: 41 °F
Low: 20 °F



Friday:
High: 36 °F
Low: 22 °F

02

Christian controversy
Forum entries discuss
recent column on
Christian as a minority

03

Too close for comfort
Do missed free throws
portend disaster for
Wildcat basketball?

04

Prestigious Plants
Distinguished plant
professor awarded
endowed chair

Shooting at Manhattan hotel; suspect injured

Jon Parton
staff writer

A suspect was shot by police Tuesday morning after allegedly firing his gun outside of a hotel and refusing to drop the weapon.

Police from Riley and Pottawatomie counties responded to a 911 call just after 6 a.m. Tuesday at the Quality Inn hotel at

150 East Poyntz Ave. The caller reported gunshots being fired at the location.

Although officers asked the suspect to stop firing and drop the gun, the suspect allegedly continued firing. Officers then returned fire, striking the suspect multiple times. No police officers or bystanders were injured during the incident.

Riley County Police Director Brad Schoen held a press conference Tuesday afternoon and explained that an investigation into the incident is currently underway.

"Given the involvement of RCPD officers in the shooting, I have asked that the Kansas Bureau of Investigation handle the investigation," Schoen said.

Although police did not name the suspect or the police officers involved in the shooting, the suspect's mother, Linda Kinyon, called radio station KMAN on Tuesday. In a photo of her son sent to the station, the file refers to him as Dustin Munroe.

Kinyon said her son is in his 30s and is a contractor in Wamego. She told KMAN that

her son is hard-working and the father of two children. Kinyon said Munroe had planned to visit her in Oklahoma for the Christmas holiday. She described the morning incident as a domestic altercation.

Schoen said the suspect was arrested for aggravated assault, although additional charges are possible.

Unwrapping disadvantages: giving new technology as gifts for children

Mckenzie Cordell
staff writer

New technology may not be the best Christmas gift to give young kids, according to Anna Nippert, instructor of family studies and human services.

"I think there are a lot of great things that technology can do for young children," Nippert said. "My fear with technology is that it becomes a babysitter."

As more and more devices become common household items, parents have depended on interactive technology to keep their young kids occupied. Even apps that are made to teach young children certain skills can develop into a repetitive passive behavior for the child.

"Yes, it's interactive in that they are touching and moving items," Nippert said, "and there are educational apps that can be put on there, but once a child does them a few times, it can become a very passive experience."

Although parents may be convinced that their child is learning, there comes a point

when the child might not be processing the information anymore.

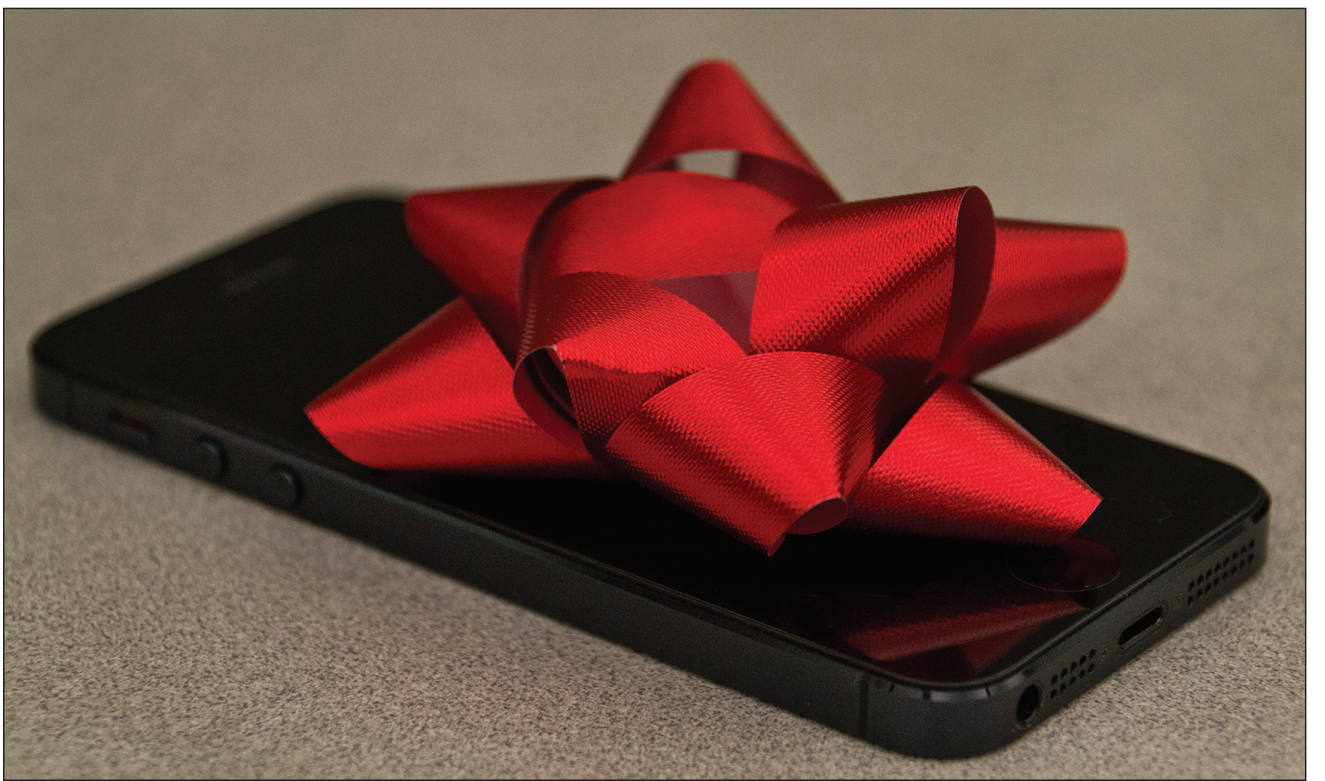
Nippert said that parents should be aware that technology is a tool to be used in small doses and to encourage creativity.

Haley Hermes, junior in family studies and human services, said she thinks it's OK for young children to have tablets, cellphones and other devices as long as parents are limiting the amount of time their children spend on them.

"When parents can still interact with their kids while using these devices is when the kids are going to get the most developmental benefits out of them," Hermes said.

According to Hermes, kids are more fascinated with electronics now because society as a whole has become more interested in new technology. Today's kids aren't interested in the same things those of decades past were.

"I begged my parents for a hamster for three months until I finally got one," Hermes said.



Taylor Alderman | Collegian

TOYS | pg. 5

Technology is always a popular gift during the holiday season. The repercussions of gifting technology too early, however, can lead to serious social repercussions.

Technology, campus programs aid international collaboration at K-State

Shelby Wallace
contributing writer

K-State is making strides towards international cooperation through the use of new technology. One PR class experienced this firsthand last Friday night when they communicated with students enrolled in a graduate-level course, Crisis Communication Management with Professor Harold Hutt Herrera from the University of Costa Rica, via Skype.

Lauren Fahsholtz, junior in

public relations, was one of the students who attended the Skype session. Fahsholtz said she saw how this interaction and communication would benefit her future career because when working internationally, one must understand how to effectively interact and apply concepts for a successful business.

"It is not every day you get to communicate with students from Costa Rica," Fahsholtz said. "It was interesting to hear their answers and ideas because they were sim-

ilar to our own. Even being that far away, the PR concepts are still used in similar ways."

Barb DeSanto, assistant professor of public relations, was the mastermind behind this Skype session. DeSanto is passionate about students stepping out of their comfort zones and studying internationally to expand their knowledge of the world. She utilizes the technology in the classroom to give everyone the chance to gain a perspective from across the globe.

DeSanto said international collaboration is "an investment in your future." She also said that her own experience traveling has developed her into the person she is today.

"One of my students just asked me what the best \$100 I ever spent was, and I replied, 'Paying for my passport,'" DeSanto said. "It really did open up the world to me. I've traveled to 21 countries and hope to add another 21. Taking a risk, stepping outside of your comfort zone — I don't care what cliché you use — it's all true. And this learning is something you can't learn unless you have the full experience."

Gloria Freeland, director of the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media and assistant professor in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, understands that international collaboration and international study is essential in a student's educational career.

"I believe it's very important for faculty and students to get involved in international projects and collaborations," Freeland said. "This interchange will enhance K-State's research, teaching and service activities."

As Freeland stated, the exchange with international studies will not only benefit students, but the university as well. The 2025 plan focuses on establishing K-State as a Top 50 Public Research Institution. With an increased focus on international collaboration, K-State will be that much closer to its goal.

International collaboration is becoming a crucial part of students' educational careers. K-State is beginning to implement the technology needed to go beyond the textbooks and discover new ways of learning. As DeSanto expressed, international collaboration is now important for any career.

"It is no longer possible to be an island on the globe by yourself anymore," DeSanto said. "Just think, if you work for almost any fast food business right now as a college student, you are an employee of an international corporation."

On campus, K-State provides

students with ways to get involved with international students. International Buddies is an organization that prides itself on connecting international students with a "buddy" from the United States. This could be a student, staff or community member. The pair meets regularly to learn about each other's cultures and customs and to explore the city of Manhattan.

Sin Dee Tey, junior in dietetics, has been a part of the International Buddies program since the spring of 2013.

"Due to globalization, the world is now interrelated," Tey said. "Building an understanding between each other is one of the ways to maintain the relationships, mutual agreements and mutual benefits. Thus, having an international background is important to get connected with society today."

Tey said her own experience of international study has helped her create a better understanding of people.

"Learning about people other than those from my country help me to understand people with different perspectives and to adapt in a dissimilar environment as a student studying abroad," Tey said.

Tey said she hopes to see an increase in international study within K-State classrooms as well.

"Most of the majors do not require international study in their courses," Tey said. "The amount of exposing students to international study can still be increased. International Buddies is not only for international students, but for everyone. Everyone who is interested is more than welcome to put in one's effort, time and passion to build a better K-State environment."

The Office of International Programs, OIP, is another way K-State has implemented the importance of international study and collaboration. Marcellus Caldas, director of International Research and Faculty Collaboration, spoke of what lies ahead of K-State in the area of international collaboration.

"We are developing exchange agreements with the best high education institutions in the world,"

TECH | pg. 5



TECH THE HALLS

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ACROSS

1 Sinbad's bird

4 Pump up the volume

7 Well- (rich)

8 Scrub a NASA mission

10 Knight wear

11 Private instruc-tors

13 Pop song of 1940, with "The"

16 Lair

17 Eastern potentate (Var.)

18 — and outs

19 Met melody

20 Faris of "Mom"

21 Surroun-dings

23 Loose, as trousers

25 Vagrant

26 Suitable

27 Mimic

28 Fencing move

30 Hot tub

33 Side-by-side

36 More saucy

37 Ask

38 Scattered seed

39 Incite

40 Existed

41 — out a living

2 Smell

3 Meeting places?

4 Mistreat

5 Engine

6 College instructor, for short

7 Squirrel's home

8 Bewil-dered

9 Stressful

10 Moreover

12 Cher's early partner

14 Send forth

15 "Born in the —"

19 Big bother

20 Time of your life?

21 Clean a spill

22 Mountain goats

23 Cribs

24 It's nothing new

25 Uris novel, with "The"

26 Narrow inlet (Var.)

28 Islamic decree

29 Tools for duels

30 Pro-longed attack

31 Skin opening

32 Whatever number

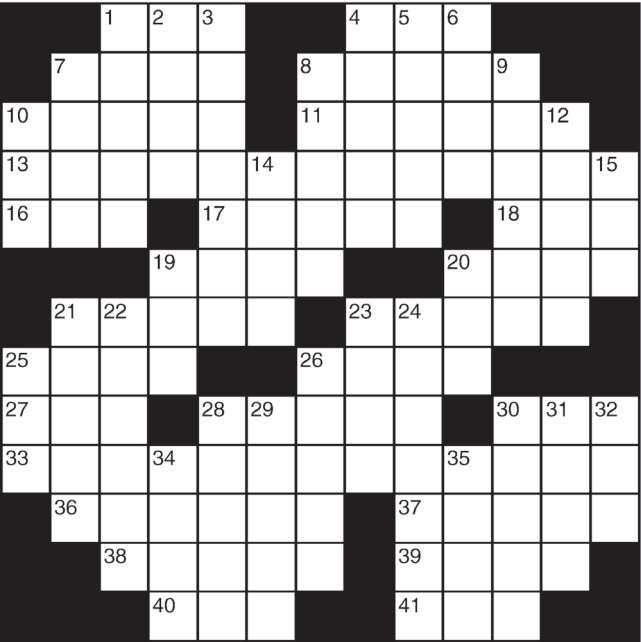
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Solution time: 21 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 12-11



the FOURUM.

785-260-0207

The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff

Who decided driving with headphones in was a good idea? Cause it's illegal...

Believe me, no one here is trying to make digital art with Windows.

Like and vote for your favorite posts at thefourum.net!

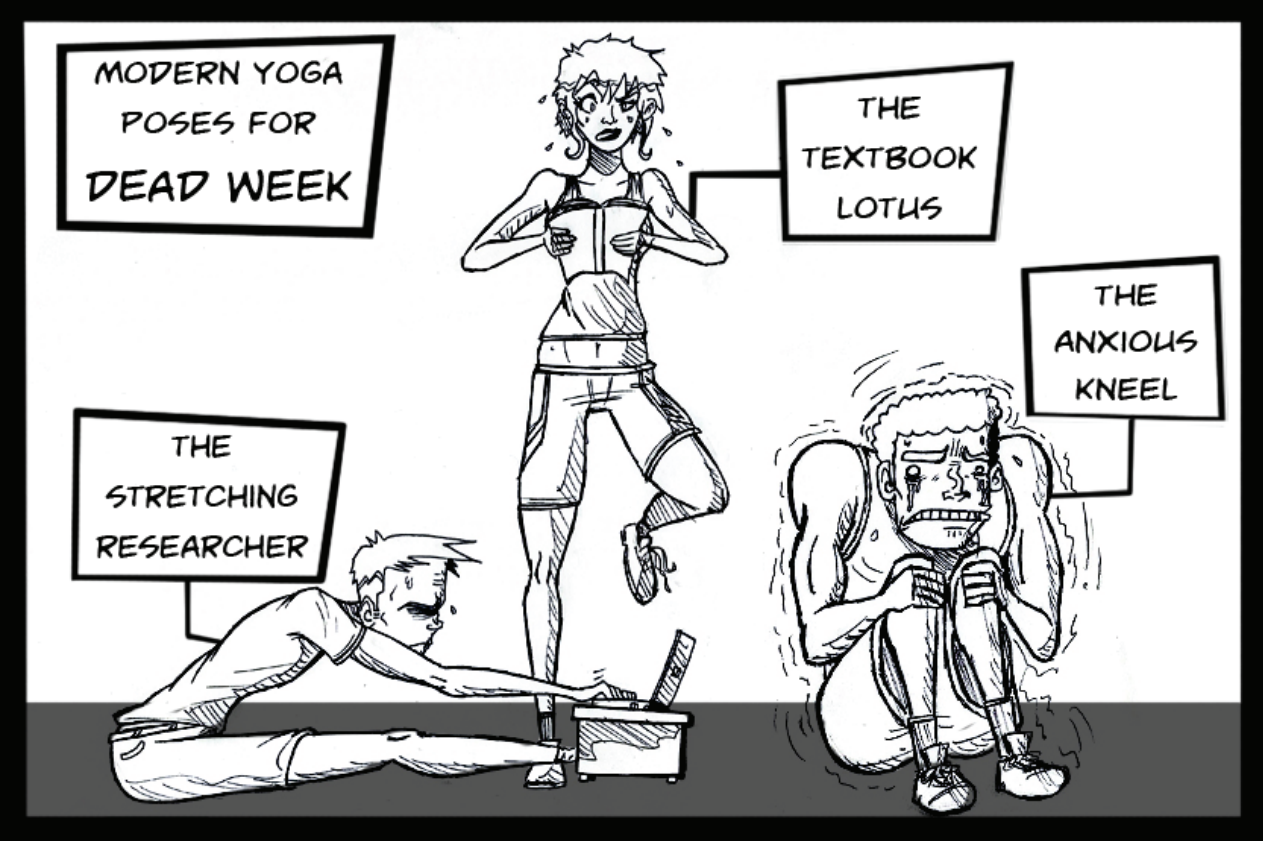
Laura Meyers made a great point... "Diversity" has created an intolerance towards those who may not seem like a minority at first sight. Being a Christian in college is not always easy... And just because you don't like what she said doesn't make her wrong... It makes you the intolerant one... Liberals aren't that tolerant after all, so much for free love and acceptance.

People that say "Chiefs" instead of "brave" should just move to Missouri, or worse, Lawrence.

The people angry at Laura Meyers are ironically proving exactly what she was saying.

To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email thefourum@kstatecollegian.com. Your e-mail address or phone number is logged but not published.

For the Win | By Parker Wilhelm



Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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			7					
	2	6	9		8	4	1	
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Difficulty Level ★★★

12/11

12-11

CRYPTOQUIP

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VPGOV AP AQY VXW. DQY
CDCUZZX IUZZD AQY

WUIQGOYD AQYKY RKYUR-WGZZD.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE EVIL CHEMIST HAS BEEN CONCOCTING POTENT POISON IN A SMALL GLASS BOTTLE. IT'S A VILE VIAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals M

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Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

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The Collegian, a student newspaper at Kansas State University, is published by Collegian Media Group. It is published weekdays during the school year and on Wednesdays during the summer. Periodical postage is paid at Manhattan, KS. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kedzie 103, Manhattan, KS 66506-7167. First copy free, additional copies 25 cents. [USPS 291 020]
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Winner of a \$50 giftcard for voting in the
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Wildcats pull sloppy win against Coyotes

Spencer Low
staff writer

K-State pulled off a 64-62 win over the University of South Dakota to move to 6-3 on the season, knocking the Coyotes to 3-6. The win was a sloppy one, as the Wildcats continued to struggle shooting the ball and had trouble in the paint.

"As a coach, you hope you play better," head coach Bruce Weber said after the game. "I don't know if I expected it, but I feared it more than anything. Big emotional win, everyone telling them how good they are after Mississippi and lots of hype, and then this team."

South Dakota sat back on defense and forced K-State to make shots outside and try to push it inside, where they were waiting. It was hard for the Wildcat guards to penetrate the Coyotes' wall of bodies to score.

"With the packed defense, they kind of just sit back. They kind of dare you; they get you out of rhythm," Weber said. "It bothered everyone."

K-State struggled out of the gate, falling into an early 15-4 rut before guard Marcus Foster came through yet again for the team this season. The freshman from Wichita Falls, Texas nailed three quick threes to give the Wildcats some fire and put them back in the game.

"We came out dry," junior forward Thomas Gipson said after the game. "We came out short. People were making shots, and that led to us playing bad on defense. We dug ourselves into a hole and in the second half, Omari [Lawrence] came out and got started and picked us up on that and on the defensive side."

The Wildcats went into half-time with a 31-26 deficit, and only three players scored for K-State in the half: Foster, senior guard Shane Southwell, and Gipson.

The second half provided a bit of a revival for K-State, especially through the play of senior guard Omari Lawrence, who came alive with nine points and two steals in the half, and freshman guard Nigel Johnson, who added seven points and three assists. Perhaps most importantly, after 11 turnovers and four assists in the first half, the team had 10 assists and just two turnovers in the second half.

"To Omari's credit, he didn't play much last game, wasn't part of all the excitement, and he was a big difference maker for us in the game," Weber said of the Lawrence's effort.

Foster led the team with 18 points, thanks to 4-9 from beyond the arc, but he was 6-20 shooting overall. Southwell added 17 points and six rebounds, while Gipson put up 13 and eight inside.

The team struggled to shoot as a whole, hitting just over 32 percent of their shots in the first half and just over 38 for the entire game.

"We haven't shot well all year, so I'm hoping it'll come sometime," said Weber.

Even more disturbing was the free throw shooting, something that has plagued the team for years now. The Wildcats hit just 10-20 free throws, including an embarrassing 3-11 in the last five minutes, when the game was on the line. If the team could have hit even just a few more of those easy shots from the line, the game would not have been nearly as close at the end.

"Down the stretch, Thomas [Gipson] misses two, Shane [Southwell] missed his front end, Omari [Lawrence] misses two, I don't know who else, somebody else might have missed," said Weber. "Now you have to fight for your life."

Notably absent from the scoring column was senior Will Spradling, one of the team's key leaders and the main point guard this season so far. Spradling played 26 scoreless minutes, adding four rebounds and three assists on the evening.

"He's our most experienced guy; he's been through it," Weber said. "I think he's put a lot of pressure on himself. I yelled at him at halftime. I hadn't yelled at him probably since I got here...He's got to be better than that."

South Dakota's leading scorer Brandon Bos was mostly silent, with just four points in 31 minutes, all of which came from free throws, but senior center Trevor Gruis more than made up for Bos' down night. Gruis delivered inside, playing all 40 minutes with 18 points, nine rebounds, and three blocks. Gruis proved a huge matchup problem for Gipson all night inside and had his way offensively for much of the game.

Despite the less-than-desirable play, a win is a win for the Wildcats who walk away with their fourth straight. K-State will try for five in a row this Sunday against Troy at 5 p.m. in Bramlage, a last chance to get out before finals consume the lives and happiness of students next week.

Hannah Hunsinger | Collegian
Marcus Foster, freshman guard, leaps for a three-pointer against University of South Dakota defenders last night in Bramlage Coliseum. Foster hit four three-pointers during the game, leading the Wildcats to victory.

Free throw struggles plague Wildcats, could spell losses



Head coach Bruce Weber compared Tuesday night's win over South Dakota to a trip to the dentist. That will happen when a team sneaks by with a 64-62 win over a 3-6 team from the Summit League. It did not come easy, but like the saying goes "a win is a win."

A lot of K-State's struggles came from the charity stripe on Tuesday night in Bramlage Coliseum. The Wildcats shot a combined 10-20 from the free throw line against South Dakota.

"I can speak for myself: I kind of thought about it too much at the end," junior forward Thomas Gipson said. "The free throws that I did make, I was relaxed and I took deep breaths."

Free throw issues have been a lingering concern for the Wildcats throughout their first nine games of the season.

K-State struggled to close out the game against the Coyotes from the free throw line. In the final 51 seconds of the game, K-State made only one of their seven free throw attempts.

It started with Gipson missing his first two shots with under a minute to go. Senior guards Shane Southwell and Omari Lawrence followed up by going a combined zero for three. What should have been a closeout situation

turned out to be a gut check for the young Wildcat side.

"Now you have to fight for your life, and you never know," Weber said. "That long shot goes in at the end, we're in trouble."

The Wildcats found themselves down by two points with two seconds left in to start their season against Northern Colorado. K-State came out on the losing end in their season opener with free throws playing a big factor. Against Northern Colorado, K-State shot a meager 16 of 33 from the free throw line, leaving plenty of points on the board.

"Overall, we do need to shoot a better free throw percentage if we want close out close games," Gipson said. "If everybody made their free throws, we wouldn't have to worry about being down two with two seconds left."

Not a single K-State player has shot over 80 percent from the free throw line this season, most notably senior guard Will Spradling. Through his first three seasons at K-State, Spradling has always shot above 82 percent from the foul line. Last season, the Kansas native connected on 86 percent of his free throw attempts, but it has been a different story through his short senior campaign thus far. Shooting only 70 percent from the line so far this season has left the Wildcats without a go-to guy late in games.

It isn't often that Spadling finds himself left off the the scoring column, but that was the case for the senior on Tuesday night.

John Zetmier is an junior in print journalism. Please send all comments to sports.kstatecollegian.com.



Hannah Hunsinger | Collegian
Marcus Foster, freshman guard, flies past two University of South Dakota defenders at last night's close Wildcats win in Bramlage Coliseum.



Hannah Hunsinger | Collegian
Omari Lawrence, senior guard, battles his way to the basket between two University of South Dakota defenders at last night's game in Bramlage Coliseum.

Plant pathology professor awarded endowed chair

Marcella Brooks
staff writer

Bikram Gill, university distinguished plant pathology professor and founding director of the Wheat Genetics Resource Center, has been awarded an endowed chair by the K-State University Foundation, established in his name.

Gill has been at K-State since 1979, after moving from his associate professor position at the University of Florida.

"I was working in south Florida, living on Miami Beach and people said 'What are you doing? Are you

crazy? You're going to Kansas?' And I said, 'Yes, I'm going to work on wheat, and Kansas is the biggest wheat producing state,'" Gill said.

Gill has received many awards throughout his career at the local, national and international levels. These awards include a National Friendship Award from the Chinese government and Wheat Man of the Year by the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

Duane Wilson and John Raupp, associate and senior scientists in plant pathology, have been working with Gill since the early 1980s.

"This [job] is his passion. He has

the ideas, and our job is to accomplish them," Wilson said.

Gill's responsibilities cover

"This job is his passion. He has the ideas, and our job is to accomplish them"

Duane Wilson
associate scientist in plant pathology

many different areas of the plant pathology department.

"He's got to keep track of what is growing in the greenhouse," Raupp

said. "He's got to keep track of what I have in the seed bank. He's got to keep track of all the molecular work that people are spouting out. He's got another chromosome lab. There are four really different areas that he is constantly pulling together. He's a big picture guy."

Gill's interest is not limited to his own responsibilities.

"It's hard to pick out one thing that he's more interested in at times, because sometimes I think 'Well maybe this isn't that important,' but when spring comes around and we've got things showing up in the field he's out there looking at things, wanting to know

what's going on," Wilson said. "He's interested in all the facets. I think that's an important key for a person in a director's position."

Gill will hold the Bikram S. Gill Chair in Wheat Genetics for the next five years to finish out his phased retirement. The chair, funded by Bayer CropScience and private donations from friends and colleagues, will then be used to recruit his successor.

"Officially, I will retire, but I will still keep working," Gill said. "This is my hobby. I've never considered this as my job. I'll continue work as a so-called volunteer."

Board of Regents approves K-State programs to become departments

Shelton Burch
staff writer

The K-State women's studies program and the K-State American ethnics program have both been elevated from programs to departments by the Kansas Board of Regents.

The change was approved by the council of the chief academic officers at the board on Oct. 16.

Breeze Richardson, associate director of communications and government relations for the Kansas Board of Regents, said the change

required the approval of the chief academic officers of each institution rather than the approval of the entire board and the council of the presidents.

"It's only when new money is being allocated that those other bodies also have to give approval," Richardson said.

In an email, Michele Janette, associate professor of English and head of the women's studies department, said the change was simply a change in official designation and that nothing in practice will change with the shift from program to department.

"For women's studies, this is an official change in status that reflects the actual reality that has been in place for many years," Janette said. "We have long had our own major, our own institutional budget, controlled our own curriculum and hired our own tenure-track faculty. Institutionally, this is a recognition of what women's studies already is."

Janette said the main benefit is that departments are more institutionally secure than programs.

Yolanda Broyles-González, university distinguished pro-

fessor and director of the department of American ethnic studies, said in an email that the department of American ethnic studies most looks forward to the resources this will provide, as well as to the security that being a department adds.

"Currently we have only three tenure track faculty and two lecturers," Broyles-González said. "We are probably the smallest unit on this campus. I trust the administration will give us the faculty resources we need in the near future."


Richardson said the regents do not make decisions about what changes of this sort will be made at the university level. That part is left to the chief academic officers at each university and their staff.

"The Board of Regents trusts the universities and their chief academic officers and their staff to administer what happens at their universities," Richardson said. "So they [the board] make the major policy decisions and leave it up to the university's chief academic officers to determine the policies for their programs."

In addition to the council of chief academic officers, some decisions require the regents and a separate board, the board of presidents, to also give approval.

Items that require approval of all three boards include new schools and departments that require state funding, new degree programs, extension of degree programs to higher levels (such as making an associate degree program a bachelor degree program), and adding new majors under an existing degree name.

Post-graduation finals for graduating seniors just don't make sense



Melanie Thomas

Ah, graduation. On Friday and Saturday, hundreds will walk into Bramlage Collesium as K-State students and walk out K-State alumni. Cue the gratuitous amounts of celebration, feasting on graduation party faire, closing out "the best years of your life" and looking forward to bright futures as students take their first steps into the "real world." And if they're undergraduate students, they'll

have something else to look forward to: finals week.

Nothing like capping off a weekend of celebrating the end of college like turning around and taking more college exams. Just think of all the fun grads will be having this weekend end celebrating with family and friends and cramming for their last series of exams!

Somehow, though, it doesn't seem unreasonable to think that when an undergrad student walks across the stage and flips his tassel from the right side of his mortarboard to the left, he's done with college. This business of taking finals, which often plays a huge role in determining course

grades, and more importantly, whether the student does or does not graduate, seems a bit ridiculous.

As could be expected, graduate students are required to have their final projects and exams completed and turned in before graduation. Doctoral candidates must present their dissertations before participating in commencement ceremonies. It seems only logical that undergraduate students should be held to the same requirements.

Some colleges, like Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., deal with final exams by scheduling all examinations for

graduating seniors the week before regular finals week, to ensure that seniors are finished and grades are in by the time students walk across the stage.

Other universities avoid the problem altogether by scheduling all finals the week before commencement. This way, all students, seniors or otherwise, are done with the semester by the time graduation rolls around. This is the strategy of our neighboring agriculture school to the north, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

It can be understandably hectic and a bit of a mess to try to schedule a special time

for seniors to take their finals the week before all the other undergraduate students take their exams. And yes, maybe in some realm, waiting to hold commencement ceremonies until after finals week is over could cause logistical or scheduling issues. Maybe.

But either one of these solutions makes more sense than making seniors go through the graduation ceremony and all of the hectic and exciting things that go along with it, like parties, hosting family members — let's be honest, that can be stressful enough in

its own right — lining up a first job, getting ready to move and saying goodbye to the friends they've spent the past four or more years with, all while studying for finals.

Seniors have enough to deal with while going through graduation without having to squeeze in finding time to study for the last final exams of their lives. Let's give those seniors a well-deserved break K-State and rethink what we're doing with our finals schedule.

Melanie Thomas is a senior in print journalism. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.





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Financial Counseling

3 options for students to start saving for retirement

Christa Deneault
staff writer

The typical student does not usually ponder on when to start saving for retirement. However, it is an issue that will arise for all students shortly after graduation.

"I think retirement is an important part of life that deserves thought. However, worrying about it while taking classes won't do you any good, but the time for worrying and thinking about retirement will come," Micah Daniels, freshman in computer science, said.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average American spends 20 years in retirement and less than half of Americans have calculated the costs of such actions. It is important, upon entering into the work force, to understand and create

personal savings goals in order to plan a successful retirement.

"The best practice a young person can do is to start with their first pay-

The three main retirement plans are 401(k), Roth IRA and Traditional IRA. These three differ mostly by who issues them. They also differ in

ee puts toward the account.

"Always take advantage of anything your company will match," Tristan Grieves, sophomore in chemical engineering, said.

A 401(k) allows the retiree to choose the type of investments they would like to contribute to based on portfolios. They are tax-deferred. In other words, money for the fund is taken out of the employee's check before taxation and taxes are paid at retirement. If this is an option for students once they have a full time career, it is an excellent way to save for retirement.

"Don't be afraid to play with the stock market, but don't put all your plans into such a risky system," Grieves said.

The more accessible options for retirement are the Roth IRA and Traditional IRA. An IRA is an indi-

vidual retirement account that is set up with a financial institution and can contain any type of investment the individual wants. For example the IRA may be any combination of bonds, stocks, mutual funds, certificates of deposits, etc.

The difference between a Roth and a Traditional IRA depends on when the invested money is taxed. A Roth taxes the money before it's invested and allows it to grow tax free. The Traditional is a tax write-off, but the earnings are taxed in the future. Roth tends to be the better financial choice because the funds are allowed to grow tax free, therefore usually leaving less to be paid in taxes.

Retirement may seem far away, but for students willing to give it thought, the effort will be well spent.

"The best practice a young person can do is to start with their first paycheck and to pay themselves first by holding a small amount of money and putting it in a retirement account."

Dean Thibault
Landmark National Bank, executive vice president

check and to pay themselves first by holding a small amount of money and putting it in a retirement account," Dean Thibault, executive vice president of Landmark National Bank, said. "It's just that simple."

whether they are tax-deferred or not. Students usually are not eligible for a 401(k). These are retirement plans provided by employers for full-time employees. Many employers will match the amount the employ-

Off-brand foods: A brand by any other name still sells as well

Patrick White
staff writer

When a product is labeled off-brand, there's a connotation that something is "off" about the product.

Despite what people may think of off-brands, when it comes to food, the one thing any college student strapped for cash can appreciate is that they're cheaper.

So the question becomes, "Should maker's name be valued over practicality?" The answer is...sometimes. Compromise is great to aim for and can help save money, but students note that some

items are irreplaceable.

"I prefer to eat at the [Kramer] dining center, because it is close," Marco Carpio, graduate student in education, said. "When I do shop, I get some things that are simple to prepare and that are fresh. The food tastes better fresh because the flavor is still there. I don't like prepared foods."

Most student consumers seek to have the best of both worlds: low price and great taste.

Caleb Kuhlman, senior in music education, said when it comes to comparison, it depends.

"The more variables in the ingredients, the more the off-brand is not worth it, because it makes more of a difference," Kuhlman said. "You can go either way on boxed macaroni, because it's just pasta. But knock-off ranch dressing is not as good as Hidden Valley Ranch. Neither are knock-off Oreos compared to Oreos or any other brand of sliced cheese compared to Kraft singles."

Though when it comes to purchasing off-brands, Kuhlman said he did have a preference.

"Kroger brands is the good baseline, but there are those

that are not as good as the brand name," Kuhlman said.

Store brands are the products that are made by the same company that owns the store. Between the big names and the small ones, store brands are intermediary, especially since they have the most control over those items.

Zack Corpus, doctoral candidate in tuba performance at the University of Memphis also said that Kroger is a good off-brand.

"Kroger, the Dillion's store brand, is usually of good quality," Corpus said. "I especially like Kroger chili beans

and various frozen leafy vegetables. Usually there is a quality difference, but not enough for me to choose something more expensive at this point of my life. They are nice to eat and cheap for a student to purchase."

More often than not, cost is a big deal. One prime example is soda. Generic soda is about half the cost of name-brand soda, illustrating a price gap that exists between name and off-brand items that can vary from small to quite large.

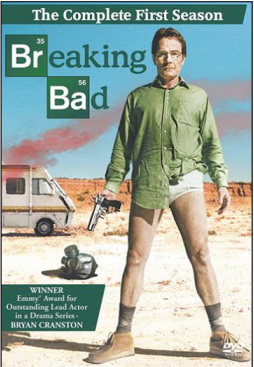
"I also like [the off-brand] lunch meats, compared to say Hillshire Farms or Oscar

Mayer," Corpus said. "Things are more expensive than usual because you are paying for the jingle. I like using them to make something else as part of a kind of off-brand recipe. I am glad they have them because other things are more expensive."

Though we may know them as the generic or knock-off forms of other more famous products, some off-brand foods end up better than the original or simply more famous.

"My favorite food that is also a knock-off would have to be knock-off SpaghettiOs," Kuhlman said.

Long story arcs on TV here to stay



Courtesy Photo

Brian Hampel
staff writer

"I used to watch it, but I missed a few episodes, and now I can't follow it anymore."

In the 21st century, this is an all-too-familiar sentiment because TV shows with heavy continuity and multi-episode, and even multi-season, story arcs are on the rise.

In decades past, TV writers had to be very cautious around long story arcs since it was difficult or impossible for the audience to follow along week-to-week. But in the age of Netflix and "the complete first season on DVD," story arc restrictions don't always apply.

In addition to watching TV episodes when they're broadcast, modern audiences have the enticing option of waiting for a show to come out on DVD and powering through a whole season in a day or two.

"When I was recovering from a tonsillectomy, I binged through the first two seasons of 'Dexter' to kill time, and got hooked," Spencer Pellant, junior in fine arts, said.

Pellant recalled accidentally discovering a lot of richness in the series when watched straight through.

"The continuity makes it more believable and ties the whole show together," Pellant said.

Ryan Rutledge, junior in information systems, said he agreed with Pellant that watching TV show seasons continually offers great detail for viewers.

"I watched 'Breaking Bad,' mostly by waiting for it to come out on Netflix," Rutledge said. "When you watch it all at once, and the story can continue for so long because it isn't confined to one episode, you get a lot of char-

acter development that doesn't come through in a shorter show."

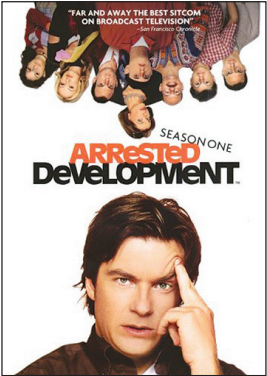
Rutledge and Pellant aren't alone in watching TV shows to gain character development and strong story plot lines.

"I like to follow 'Arrow' and 'Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," Xavier Gavin, senior in interior architecture said.

He said heavy continuity, while pioneered by superhero comics, is made more accessible to people by the realism and brevity of live action TV.

"Movies are starting to get into the three-hour range, which is kinda long, even for a compelling narrative," Gavin said. "I think TV arcs allow me to enjoy a long, compelling story while being able to take breaks in 30 minute intervals if I want."

TVTropes.org calls this phenomenon "Better on DVD." Ac-



Courtesy Photo

cording to its article on the subject, "It probably has something to do with the fact that the writers live in the environment they have created for the characters 24/7, and the 'previously on' is not enough to bring the viewer back into that world."

It points to examples like "Arrested Development," "The Wire" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" as shows that are best watched in marathons. The "CSI" and "Law and Order" franchises are the opposite. The latter two shows enjoy very high TV ratings because the episodes are self-contained and easy for casual viewers to follow, but have poorer DVD sales since marathon viewing doesn't add anything.

Strong story arcs have a downside, though, which TVTropes dubs "Continuity Lockout." It's the problem of being inaccessible to new fans, or even old fans who

missed a few episodes, by crafting a story that completely relies on story arc to be enjoyable.

"I stopped watching 'Grey's Anatomy' when it got weird, and now when girls in my sorority have it on, I have no idea what's going on," Jessica Pennybacker, sophomore in secondary education and Spanish, said. "Some couples broke up, somebody has a baby now and I can't follow any of it."

Gavin couldn't even begin watching "Doctor Who" because of continuity lockout.

"I was always told that 'Doctor Who' is a great show, and it very well may be, but when I've tried to watch it, it was way too lore-filled."

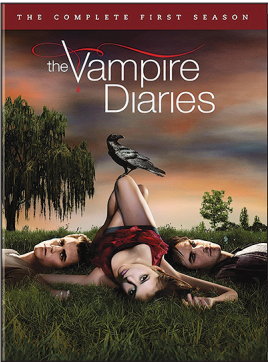
Plus, with the difficulty of keeping up with studio, Gavin said he doesn't have time in his life to follow more than one series in any depth.

Rutledge and Pellant identified another common problem of continuity: shows that drag out their story lines to the detriment of the story. They both independently pointed to the same culprit: "Supernatural."

"It kept going long after the story was done with," Rutledge said. "At some point, I couldn't handle how they were squeezing the plot dry."

Apparently, trying to make every single episode a dramatic, game-changing cliffhanger can be off-putting to fans.

Despite its problems, it looks like continuity in TV is here to stay. As Pennybacker said of her "Vampire Diaries" fandom, long story arcs can hook audiences and make them want to watch the next installment in a way episodic shows can't. Even if story arcs may alienate potential fans, the fans they capture are fans for life.



Courtesy Photo

Random acts of kindness bring encouragement, change lives

Jessie Pearson
contributing writer

People smiling, holiday carols playing in the background, people exchanging "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays"; the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is often referred to as the "season of giving."

This season can be the most pleasant and rewarding time of year, as stories of random acts of kindness begin to pop up and put us in the mood of the holidays.

"A random act of kindness would be something that is done in an effort to help another person with no expectation of reward in sight," said Tom Hallaq, assistant professor of digital media.

K-State is no exception to the areas where kind deeds are being done. In early November, Jason Grossardt, sophomore in chemical engineering, joined 10-15 other people involved in the campus ministry Cru in spending the morning outside the Union handing out hot chocolate to students.

"A lot of people were really excited," Grossardt said. "Some people were taken by surprise because we were randomly handing out free hot chocolate."

Grossardt said he normally meets up with a group of his friends on Tuesdays, but he and his friends decided to use Nov. 5 to serve others instead.

He said he thinks random acts of kindness are important because they show that not all people are self-centered. Instead, they demonstrate that some people enjoy looking out for other people without expecting a reward.

Students at K-State have experienced the receiving side of kind acts as well.

Paige Wiley, freshman in marketing, said that she clearly remembers a random act of kindness she received during high school because

it made a significant impact on her. While packing up her stuff after a marching band performance, she discovered that about \$40 had been stolen from her wallet.

She said that after praying about it, she decided to post a message on Facebook that whoever had stolen her money could leave it in her band locker the next morning, no questions asked.

The next morning, she found the money in an envelope in her locker. She said she doesn't know whether the person returned her money or if someone else gave her the money.

"Either way, it made a significant impact on me," Wiley said. "It reminded me that there are always redeeming qualities in everybody."

Wiley said she enjoys being on the giving end of random acts of kindness, as well. One of the things she likes to do is simply send encouraging messages to her friends and ask if they have any prayer requests, she said.

"I think it's cool that people will go out of their way just to make people smile," Wiley said.

News outlets may frequent the air waves with these tales of holiday happiness, but maybe not for the right reasons.

Hallaq said it might seem like there are more stories about random acts of kindness in the news, but reporters might just be more likely to pitch those stories during this time of the year. Hallaq said he believes that far too often stories about random acts of kindness are used as "kicker stories" in TV news in order to fill up space within a broadcast.

He said he thinks that broadcasters look for "easy news," focusing on crime and accident-related stories, often leaving people who watch the news feeling depressed and a little bit cynical. Wiley agreed.

"I generally hate the news because it's so negative," Wiley said. "When I do see good things on the news, it restores some of my faith in humanity."

Wiley said she believes that there's value in doing something without wanting anything in return, because oftentimes it seems like everything is focused on what people can gain from it.

Hallaq said not all news has to, or should be, positive, but he believes it needs to be better balanced.

"News reporting should reflect the community it's serving," Hallaq said.

Hallaq said he enjoys doing random acts of kindness himself as well. He said when he was teaching at Idaho State University he frequently walked in the handicap entrance to the building. There was a girl in a scooter that regularly used that entrance, as well.

He said he remembers very clearly one time when he ran to hold the door open for her and told her "good morning." He said that he had noticed she looked downcast and slumped over that day, but after he opened the door for her, she perked up and her eyes brightened.

"I could see the change in her," Hallaq said. "That made it worth it."

Hallaq said one quote has stuck with him through the years: "There is only love. All else is a cry for help." There are a lot of people in the world who need random acts of kindness. By doing random acts of kindness, it makes our world a lovelier place to live in, he said.

"Through random acts of kindness, oftentimes we can change lives," Hallaq said.

Editor's note: This article was written for an MC200 class through the A. Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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